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To The Members of The Hereditary Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors, Greeting:

The following resolution signed by the Governor General and the Founder, and a Committee of men chosen from the National Officers and honorary members, was sent April 23, 1917 to the President of The United States:

Honorable Woodrow Wilson, President of The United States:

As Americans alive to the principles for spiritual and physical freedom, justice, and human welfare that caused the founding of our country, we hereby declare to you our oneness of accord with you in your insistence upon them, and our loyal support to you in continuing them in our government and people, the universal recognition of them, the maintenance of our National honor, the safeguarding of American rights against attack, and the establishing of equality of international right and law.

As our Order commemorates the sacrifices and "service of the Colonial Governors who singly exercised supreme executive power in the American Colonies and who laid in them the foundations of stable government and of that respect for civil law and authority which made the maintenance of their future independence possible,"—and the ultimate uniting of those separate democratic republics into our great Federal Republic,—and our badge is an Honorary Decoration whose use is to keep their services before the public; to induce others to emulate them, and to remind us, their descendants, who wear it through no merit of own, that more is expected of us as having the double responsibility to live up to, and spread the constitutive principles of those Colonies, besides each one's duty to develop himself to his highest possibilities,—further stressed by our being an *Hereditary Honorary Order*—(and *not* an elective society)—because the Decoration of an Honorary Order is customarly conferred for exceptional individual qualities, or for meritorious deeds performed singly as well as collectively. Therefore as the Colonial Governors were sovereign in executive power in the American Colonies, and always in the forefront in action and relief work, many of our members desire in this world crisis to do something in the name of the Colonial Governors to show that their blood in our veins is as patriotic as they could wish, and as the blood with which it therein commingles, transmitted to us by other patriotic ancestors, which proves itself by continuous energy in ancestral societies formed for patriotic purposes and to raise monuments and memorials to them.

While the war was an European one, I, as Governor General replied from its outset to requests from members for our endorsement and efforts in various relief societies they favored, that as the President of the United States had asked everyone to observe strict neutrality, our Order could not in loyalty take any official action concerning an European war, therefore I unofficially urged that—as the President of the United States is also President of the American Red Cross, which is the United States' government's official vehicle for all aid, and as the Order's first consideration would be how quickest to deliver relief —our members could best do so, by giving individually to the Red Cross all the funds and work they would have given to our Order had it been acting as a body, officially,—in addition to their own unflagging work for the Red Cross and other relief societies—because of its distributing funds as donors designate, its accounts being audited by the United States War Department, and, being under the protection of the Treaty of Geneva, and having due recognition from foreign countries, it could reach sufferers otherwise inaccessible. And I authorized those of our Officers who were also Officers in it, to put its work ahead of our Orders, stating that they and all Officers engaged in any relief work would be excused from their official duties while the war waged. Also, with the concurrence of our Officers, I post-

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poned the work (already begun in several chapters) for *achieving various foundation objects* of our Order, so that all members might have the time they would have given to it, to devote to more relief work.

Now, we are no longer outside the war and since the President of the United States as President of the American Red Cross has asked that all relief work be "co-ordinated and concentrated under one organization," to insure efficiency and avoid "duplication, delay and waste," our members although everyone of them as far as I have learned, are doing all their *hands* can do for the Red Cross,—can still further aid it, by helping our Order to get more materials for hands to work upon,—the National Officers of the Red Cross having replied to my asking for information, that they "will be extremely grateful if our Orders Chapters "will co-operate with the various Chapters of the Red Cross, planning garments as outlined in Pamphlet A. C. R. 164, April 27, 1917, Department of Military Relief" and "there is urgent need for supplies in France."

Mr. J. P. Tumulty, Secretary to the President of the United States, has written me: "The President desires me to say to you that the Officers of the American Red Cross deeply appreciate the generous co-operation of the Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors."

Therefore with confidence in your enthusiastic concurrence, I ask each of you to send one dollar, or more as each wishes, to their State Chairman, as head of a Finance Committee (of three or more members appointed by such Chairman, as required by our bylaws under such circumstances.)

I the more confidently make this appeal to you for humanity, because our Order has never imposed annual dues, (which had it done so would at the lowest customary rates for dues during our long existence, have amounted to a reserve fund of hundreds of thousands of dollars had they been invested therefor)—nor has the Order ever asked its members to contribute even one penny for its maintenance. Hence all members are now urged to use every effort and opportunity to make the aggregate amount as large as possible for the relief of those who are bravely risking their lives and all that is dear, to substantiate American Ideals.

We wish every State to be represented; each State Chapter will, under its own name, have due credit given it in a separate book, in which each one's contribution will be recorded with date when received, by one of their Chapter's Finance Committee, or National Committee States where no chapter exists, will be represented as States by their members at large, *i. e.*, National members, who have preferred not to identify themselves with chapters in their States; such ones are requested to send their contributions to the National Chairman and Committee appointed to take charge of this work.

The books will be forwarded later to the National Order to be preserved in its National Historical Archives.

Miss Gail Great *Governor General.*
GREENWICH,
CONNECTICUT.

Please send your contribution to
Chairman for State of
Mrs Thomas J. Craven -
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